

**Minutes of 8th Meeting of
Construction Industry Council
held on 28 February 2008 at 2:30 p.m.
in Room 1201, Murray Building, Garden Road, Central**

Present

Mr Keith Kerr	Chairman
Ms Teresa Cheng	
Mr T T Cheung	
Mr James Chiu	
Mr CHOI Chun-wa	
Mr Stanley Hui	
Ir Edgar Kwan	
Prof J M Ko	
Mr W H Lam	
Mr Peter Lee	
Mr S S Lee	
Mr NG Koon-kwan	
Mr TSE Chun-yuen	
Mr WAN Koon-sun	
Mr Conrad Wong	
Mr Billy Wong	
Mr YU Wai-wai	
Mr C K Mak	Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)
Mr Thomas Chan	Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing (Housing)
Mr C K Au	Deputy Director of Buildings
Mr N M Chan	Assistant Director (Development & Procurement), Housing Department
Mr Charles Wong	Acting Executive Director/Construction Industry Council
Miss Janet Wong	Deputy Secretary for Development (Works) 1
Mr Jack Chan	Principal Assistant Secretary for Development (Works) 1
Mr David Tong	Principal Assistant Secretary for Development (Works) 4
Mr K H Tao	Chief Assistant Secretary for Development (Works) 1
Mr Solomon Wong	Assistant Secretary for Development (Public Works Systems Administration) 1

Agenda item 4

Mr S T Lam Assistant Director/Support, Buildings Department

Absent with Apologies

Mr Russell Black
Mr Francis Bong
Dr Andrew Chan
Mr Thomas Ho
Mr Thomas Kwok

**Agenda Item 1: Confirmation of Minutes of the 7th
Meeting held on 20 December 2007**

The minutes circulated to Members on 21 February 2008 were confirmed without amendments.

Agenda Item 2: Matters Arising

2. Members noted the following matters arising from minutes of the last meeting –

(a) Paragraph 4

Design features to be incorporated into new buildings for enhancing the safety of repair and maintenance works would be further discussed by the Informal Task Force on Permanent Safety Features;

(b) Paragraph 5

The draft of the letter to the Secretary for Labour and Welfare on staff resources for taking enforcement actions in relation to repair and maintenance works had been prepared and would be issued shortly;

[Post meeting note – The letter was issued on 3 March 2008.]

(c) Paragraph 6

The paper submitted by BD on the Minor Works Control System would be discussed under agenda item 4;

(d) Paragraphs 7 and 8

The matters were being followed up by the respective informal task forces under the Committee on Construction Site Safety;

(e) Paragraph 9

The draft of the letters on the Pay for Safety Scheme to be issued to REDA, HKIA, HKIE, HKIS and the Hong Kong Federation of Insurers had been prepared and would be issued shortly. Furthermore, BD issued PNAP 298 in March 2006 encouraging voluntary adoption of the Pay for Safety Scheme in private building projects;

[Post meeting note – The letters were issued on 3 March 2008.]

(f) Paragraph 11

The way forward on construction research and development would be further discussed by the Committee on Environment and Technology;

(g) Paragraph 12

Two rounds of newspaper advertisements on the amalgamation were placed in December 2007 and January 2008 respectively. Advertisements were also placed on the periodicals of HKIE, HKIA, HKIS, HKCA and HKFEMC in January 2008. Posters and pamphlets were distributed by direct mailing and through industry organizations in late December 2007. The amalgamation of CIC and CITA was implemented smoothly on 1 January

2008 and CIC had been functioning smoothly since then;

(h) Paragraph 14

Subject to written confirmation, ICAC had verbally advised that co-opted members of Committees were not public servants and would not be governed by section 4 of the Prevention of Bribery Ordinance (PBO).

[Post meeting note – The written confirmation was received immediately after the meeting. A revised code of conduct reflecting the position of co-opted members under section 4 of PBO will be submitted for endorsement by CIC.]

Agenda Item 3: Composition of CIC Committees
[Paper No. CIC/062]

3. The Chairman/Convenor and Members of CITB and the Objections Committee were appointed by CIC in accordance with the CIC Ordinance to serve for one year starting on 1 January 2008 and should therefore continue to serve until 31 December 2008. The six Committees formed in early 2007 were still needed to take forward the priority tasks of CIC. Members agreed that these Committees should continue to operate with the current line-up of Chairmen and members for maintaining continuity.

4. New CIC Members will be invited to sign up for the six Committees following the guideline discussed at the 2nd CIC meeting on 21 March 2007 that each Member should optimally join two Committees.

Secretariat

[Post meeting note – Invitation to join the six Committees was issued to new CIC Members on 1 April 2008.]

Agenda Item 4: Buildings (Amendment) Bill 2007 for the
Proposed Minor Works Control System
[Paper No. CIC/063]

5. Mr S T Lam of BD briefed Members that the Buildings (Amendment) Bill 2007 for implementing the proposed Minor

Works Control System (MWCS) was introduced into the Legislative Council in December 2007 and was being scrutinized by a bills committee. The main features of the system would be a set of simplified procedures for executing a new category of building works to be called “minor works”. The level of control to be exercised through the new procedures would be commensurate with the nature, scale, complexity and degree of risks of minor works. The amendment bill would also introduce a register of Registered Minor Works Contractors (RMWC).

6. Minor works would be divided into three classes. Class I would be relatively complicated minor works such as installation of internal staircases. Class II would be comparatively less complex minor works such as non-structural repair to external walls. Class III minor works would mainly include household items such as erection of supporting frames for air-conditioners. Minor works could be executed by Registered General Building Contractors (RGBC), Registered Specialist Contractors (RSC) or RMWC in the appropriate classes.

7. Responding to the Chairman’s enquiry, Mr S T Lam explained that the MWCS would enhance site safety through establishing a register for RMWC thus facilitating better control on registered companies and individuals through providing a channel for disseminating safety requirements and a mechanism for taking regulatory actions for non-compliance.

8. Members raised several concerns on the registration SEP as Class III RMWC. A Member cautioned that, despite the simplicity of Class III minor works, SEP might lack the knowledge and resources to comply with essential safety requirements. SEP might not observe the requirements to give notices for commencement and completion to BD thus rendering minor works executed by them unauthorized. There were also doubts on the availability of insurance covers to SEP. In this regard, Mr S T Lam advised that the SEP would be required to attend a short training session on the statutory requirements for carrying out Class III minor works before they could be registered as RMWC and BD would publish technical guidelines including essential safety requirements to the Class III RMWC. He added that on the issue of insurance covers, the Working Group on Minor Works Control System (established under BD) was exploring the possible solutions with the HKFI.

BD

9. On user-friendliness of the system, Mr S T Lam indicated that suitable publicity and promotion would be arranged to help individual building owners understand the distinction between the three classes of minor works. Mock-up illustrating the works mainly belonging to the Class III would be displayed in Property Management Advisory Centres of the Hong Kong Housing Society. Advice on executing minor works would also be provided as part of the enquiry services at these centres.

10. Mr S T Lam pointed out that four to five bills committee meetings had been held thus far. Since no major issues had been raised, the current target was to complete the scrutiny process and enact the bill in mid-2008. Members concluded that the MWCS should be supported subject to implementation of appropriate arrangements for ensuring the user-friendliness of the system.

BD

**Agenda Item 5: 1st Progress Report of Construction Industry Training Board (CITB)
[Paper No. CIC/064]**

11. The first meeting of CITB was held on 15 January 2008 to discuss the major tasks to be pursued in 2008 including strengthening the provision of training for ethnic minorities, studying the feasibility of operating construction-related E&M trade tests by CICTA and the possibility of developing new services such as partnering with major contractors in providing specializing civil engineering training. CITB also examined the proposed sub-committee substructure which might include an Audit Subcommittee to conduct audit on compliance with procedures on provision of training and trade testing services.

Agenda Item 6: Any Other Business

12. There being no other business, the open-door session was declared closed.

******End of Open-Door Session******